

A NEW PROJECT FOR INDIAN AID

By ALEX MORISEY, AFSC Community Relations Writer

SUPPOSE the school situation in your community reflects the following negative factors: School attendance is poor. The drop-out rate is excessive. Few students stay long enough to finish high school. Rarely does a young person go on to higher vocational or academic education.

Where such conditions exist, it is likely that civic indignation will demand corrective measures. In order for this to happen, there must be indigenous leaders to spark the community spirit and there must be *hope*. But that is an unlikely possibility on many reservations where American Indians live. These educational handicaps were quickly apparent when the first AFSC contacts were made with Indians on the Tulalip Reservation in Washington State.

In an invitation to the AFSC to undertake work on the reservation, the

tribal council said: "The need for an adequate education is almost daily brought to our attention. For our Indian children, this need increases to the point of being an absolute necessity." In a comment which reflected Indian frustration, the chairman of the tribal education committee said: "When it comes to helping our children in school, we're stalemated."

Prior efforts by the tribe had resulted in the creation of scholarships to assist students with college and vocational training. Despite faith in the undertaking, it had been difficult to find serious, capable students who could use scholarship assistance.

Meeting Discusses Problem

Last fall, members of the tribal education committee, school officials, and citizens of Marysville jointly discussed the problem and considered ways to approach it. But school personnel had felt frustrated at not being able to relate more adequately to the reservation Indians; the Indian reaction was that the meetings resulted in a lot of talk and no specific plans.

The outlines of new vigorous action to overcome some of the reservation's problems began to take form last March at the annual tribal meeting. The AFSC staff member was a featured speaker and talked about the possibilities of a "new frontier" in education on the reservation.

Tribal representatives and AFSC staff initiated a series of interviews with the school superintendent. Out of these talks has come an honest recognition of the needs and mutual effort to seek solutions.

A more recent development has been a conference attended by teachers and guidance counselors who had demonstrated unusual success in work with Indian pupils. Problems of cross-cultural adjustment, attendance, testing, and curriculum adjustment were creatively discussed.

Already, assistance to Indian students has helped eight of them plan



Bulletin of

AMERICAN FRIENDS
SERVICE COMMITTEE

SUMMER 1961

further studies, and grants totaling \$500 have been made to three of them.

Two specific cases suggest the special needs being dealt with by the tribal education committee.

An Indian girl, enrolled in a school for practical nurses, encountered difficulty because she had not completed a high school course. Her record reflected her deficiencies. Adequate counsel on adjustment problems, the school's willingness for her to repeat certain courses, and attention to her financial needs enabled her to continue with satisfactory progress. Her success is of great significance to the reservation because at present there is a need for someone who has competence in practical nursing.

Summer Course Aid Given

Another girl needed financial assistance in order to pursue summer courses at the University of Washington, where she was studying to be a medical records librarian. Her transfer from another school had necessitated the make-up work at the university, which has a different semester system. Most scholarship programs are not geared to meet summer school needs and hers were critical. Funds from two anonymous sources were made available for her use.

Projected for the future in the AFSC program on the Tulalip Reservation are projects which will endeavor to arouse active support of tribal segments. One technique will seek to draw attention to Indian "educational models" who secured education which has enabled them to settle into rewarding vocations. Ways will be sought to broaden the cultural experiences of young people on the reservation with the assistance of volunteers from nearby Marysville and possibly Seattle.

Non-Indian young people will be invited to conferences and activities on the reservation, where they can get firsthand information on Indian problems and aspirations.

Ted Hetzel



Will this American Indian boy have available adequate education?

... the basic ingredient ...

Philadelphia, Pa.
June, 1961

Dear Friends:

One of the most radical of the changes in the recent American Friends Service Committee program reorganization was the creation of a Youth Services Division. Hardly had the new pattern assumed form before the division was faced with great new challenges.

Youth across the world is dissatisfied and determined to play a part in the shape of things to come. Side by side with youthful antisocial behavior come evidences of a deep desire to help build a better world. At some points of the globe young people are understandably preoccupied in claiming rights which they see as denied them. At others, the possession of those *rights* challenges them to accept the *responsibilities* which come with such possession. In this country they are demonstrating this sense of responsibility by their preparedness to give of themselves in the search for a more peaceful world.

The AFSC has felt the pressure to provide more long-term opportunities for youth service. Two years ago the idea of "a year or two of service and education at home or abroad" began to shape itself into the AFSC Voluntary International Service Assignments program. We are now providing opportunities for some 50 young men and women this year, and more in 1962. Twelve volunteers under competent leadership are preparing to go to Tanganyika to work with Africans in a governmental rural development program. Six VISA appointees will soon be at German neighborhood centers helping the regular staff to develop services started by AFSC after World War II. Twelve more will work with a number of Indian and Pakistani social organizations. Child care, health work, agricultural, and engineering activities are contemplated in Guatemala and Haiti. Two social work assignments in the United States have been made.

Suddenly, last fall, after our own small effort had been launched, the Peace Corps vision caught the imagination of America. We of the AFSC welcomed the idea in principle, though we were aware of the immense problems inherent in such an unprecedented governmental initiative. In recent months AFSC staff members have been in constant and cordial contact with the dedicated men and women working to start the Peace Corps.

We do not at this time know whether or in what form our VISA program may relate to the emerging Peace Corps program. We do rejoice in any effort, large or small, through which our youth may serve and learn. Individual motivation is the crux of the matter. Sensitive, humble, yet determined spirits are the basic ingredient in all such adventures of good will.

Yours sincerely,

Colin W. Bell

Executive Secretary



Photos by Matt Herron

Remi and his friends in the second grade were bubbling with excitement. The little exchange puppet from Italy would soon be off to Seattle accompanied by the teacher, Bettina Moore. Remi helps her "teach," delivers little talks in assembly, and is a popular personality.

Inspired by Mrs. Moore's contagious enthusiasm, the children had transformed their classroom into an imaginary airport. Desks were arranged in the outline of an airplane with the pilot up front. "Passenger," "gondola," and "propeller" were words juvenile airport employees needed to spell and write. Remi and Mrs. Moore's luggage had to be weighed and the pounds added and subtracted. On the day of departure, 28 pairs of small hands were busy expediting the trip.

Remi had made a long journey before, from Giardino D'Inferanza, a private orphanage in Italy with which Friends Central Lower School is related through AFSC's School Affiliation Service.

In both Seattle and Portland elementary schools, Remi and Mrs. Moore demonstrated how a lively and imaginative teacher can make an affiliation program part of all the learning and play activities of her children.

During the past term, the Upper School of Friends Central and its affiliated school in Graefeling, Germany, have each exchanged two students. Perhaps in a few more years two of Remi's little classmates will be making real preparations for a flight to Germany.



AFSC EXPANDS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

By GEORGE LOFT, Director of the AFSC's Africa Program

ON THE MAP, Africa looks like a solid continent. But those working there have found how vastly different one part is from another in geography, history, and culture. Problems also differ: in some areas, the most pressing factor is race relations; in others, political and economic development. The need for community development and the desire for education, however, are continent-wide.

How is the Service Committee's expanding work in Africa helping to solve some of these problems?

On July 1, some 30 young men and women from Africa, America, Europe, and other areas will start a six-week summer work camp in Ibadan, Nigeria, building that city's first public youth center. The camp will be under joint Nigerian-AFSC sponsorship.

Toward the end of July, a dozen appointees led by Harry Bailey will arrive in Tanganyika's Northern Province to be oriented for the first AFSC Voluntary International Service Assignment (VISA) project to be launched in Africa—a two-year program to supplement government staff engaged in programs of health, child care, recreation, and rural and urban community development.

These new undertakings mark an important extension of AFSC work in

sub-Saharan Africa. Although the Service Committee had been active in Northern Africa for some years (and now is engaged in Algerian refugee relief in Tunisia and Morocco), it was not until 1957 that AFSC staff was assigned to sub-Saharan Africa—to undertake a three-year effort of political reconciliation in the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. This work now is being continued by Lyle Tatum, who also is investigating further AFSC service opportunities in Central Africa.

Explorations in Nigeria

In August last year, Paul B. Blanchard, Jr., arrived in Lagos to determine how AFSC best could help to meet some of Nigeria's developing needs. In addition to laying the groundwork for the Ibadan work camp, he also is exploring service avenues in health education, human relations, and educational broadcasting.

In addition to work camps and VISA, other AFSC programs are expanding to Africa. Under School Affiliation Service, six Southern Rhodesian schools now are linked to public and private schools in various parts of the United States. During the past school year, the SAS program has had its first teacher from Southern Rhodesia in the United States as a visiting

teacher in four affiliated schools. Six or eight students and young professional people in African countries are being invited to participate in seminars in Europe. Other Africans already abroad will be attending seminars both in Europe and Asia.

Field Study Planned

A number of African government and professional leaders will share in diplomats', journalists', and other AFSC international conferences and seminars in Europe and the United States. A special field study this summer will determine the most effective way to hold such seminars and conferences which the AFSC hopes to organize in Africa in the coming year. The Quaker United Nations Program, which AFSC helps sponsor, has been active with African delegations at the U.N., and African visitors have had hospitality at Davis House, an AFSC international center in Washington.

Since it is the newest area of work, AFSC programs in and for Africa still are being shaped. As in other parts of the world, however, it is AFSC's aim to find uniquely useful patterns to help meet some of the vast human needs of this continent in a spirit of reconciliation and nonviolence.

AFSC BULLETIN Number 73 Form 3547 Requested

The American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker organization, attempts to relieve human suffering and find creative solutions to tensions between individuals, groups, or nations. We believe there is that of God in every man, and that love in action can overcome hatred, prejudice, and fear.

Our work is open to anyone regardless of race, religion, or nationality. We depend upon your contributions. Checks may be sent to the American Friends Service Committee at any of its offices.

American Friends Service Committee
160 North 15th Street, Philadelphia 2, Pa.